

63rd FIP Congress Sydney, Australia



The 2003 World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences — FIP's 63rd World Congress — took place in Sydney, Australia, from 4 to 9 September, focusing on the theme *Developing a new contract between pharmacy and society (Risk management and improving outcomes)*.

Among the 2000 delegates attending the meeting 300 were first-time participants, 155 were students and 88 fell into the 'young pharmacists' category. The FIP congress in Sydney hosted 160 presentations over 5 days and saw the admission of six new member organisations, including three from countries new to FIP membership – Algeria, Argentina and Kosovo. FIP welcomes our new member organisations and anticipates their active contribution to world pharmacy.

Jean Parrot, the President of FIP (pictured on the right), in his address at the opening session of the Congress, highlighted the benefits and the disadvantages of globalisation. For the full text of the President's speech (English version), please click [here](#). For translations into Spanish, French, German, Japanese or Chinese, please contact the [FIP office](#).

The Høst-Madsen Award is the FIP's highest award and it was presented to Professor Ernst Mutschler (pictured on the left), professor emeritus at the Pharmacological Institute of the University of Frankfurt Main, Germany for his long and distinguished career, highlighted by his work in synthesising selective agonists and antagonists by which he was able to differentiate between muscarinic receptor subtypes.

The International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) received the Pharmaceutical Practitioner Award of the FIP Foundation for Education and Research for its [Neema project](#) in Tanzania. The dispensary is shortly to be handed over to the Tanzanian government.

The Bio-Tech award was presented to Dr. Jean Paul Behr, director of research at the National Science Agency of France. He also heads the genetic chemistry department at the University of Strasbourg. The award is for a pharmaceutical scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of biotechnology. Dr. Behr is recognised internationally as one of the founders of genetic chemistry.

The Young Pharmacists/Pharmaceutical Scientists Award for Professional Innovation was presented to Suryadevara Pratap from India.

The Opening Ceremony offered a variety of entertainment, including performances of a brass band and a children's choir as well as a glimpse to the aboriginal culture.

Over four-hundred posters on pharmaceutical science and practice-related research were on display and provided excellent opportunities for discussion and the sharing of experiences through-out the days.

The FIP Council adopted four new statements strengthening the key role pharmacists play in modern health care. Policies addressing the pharmacist's responsibility and value in encouraging adherence to long-term therapies and in the fight against counterfeit medicines and tobacco addiction as well as provisioning ships with medicines were set out and officially accepted by FIP's governing body.

Adherence to long-term therapies for chronic diseases in developed countries averages only 50%, while in the developing countries the rate is even lower. "Pharmacists, in dispensing medicines, have a particular responsibility to educate consumers and patients on how best to use these medicines, including the crucial importance of sticking with their treatment regimen," stated Jean Parrot, President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). "Equally so, pharmacists should be engaged in helping people to give up smoking and other uses of tobacco", he concluded.

FIP also took a strong position on counterfeit medicines and the increasing risk to public health that they represent. "Counterfeit medicines can kill and they are a serious risk worldwide," emphasized Ton Hoek, General Secretary of FIP. "This is particularly true in countries where regulation of the manufacture and distribution of medicines is weak." The newly adopted FIP policy statement of counterfeit medicines calls for increased cooperation with the World Health Organization and strong efforts to raise awareness among government authorities, policy makers and pharmacists worldwide.

The newly adopted FIP Statements are available online [here](#).

Dr Vinod P. Shah was appointed as the new Scientific Secretary of FIP for 2003-2007, succeeding Professor Dr. Hans Junginger from the Leiden University in The Netherlands. Dr. Shah is currently a Senior Research Scientist in the Office of Pharmaceutical Science, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The pharmacy practice symposia, as has come to be expected, covered important and sometimes controversial topics. A 2001 report by the United States Institute of Medicine entitled "Crossing the quality chasm: a new health system for the 21st century" was debated at some length at two symposia on September 6. This report, which, among other things, sets out ten rules for redesigning health care, is available at www.nap.edu.

The scientific programme highlighted mechanisms and problem solving strategies to oral drug delivery as well as the input of genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics to drug discovery. Therapeutic drug monitoring with radiological techniques and science and regulations for new biopharmaceutical issues were also discussed.

The Boards of Pharmaceutical Practice and Sciences organised a joint symposium on SARS, discussing both the science of the new virus and the practical and pharmaceutical aspects of the outbreak.

In addition to their scientific and professional programmes, FIP Congresses always provide the participants with memorable social events, offering a possibility to encounter with colleagues from other countries. FIP looks forward to meeting all of the participants in this year's Congress again during New Orleans Congress in 2004. Next year, FIP will also organise the 2nd Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC) in Kyoto, Japan from 29 May until 3 June.

COUNCIL STATEMENTS

New Statements Adopted by the FIP Council in Sydney

One of FIP's major tasks is to set world standards for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science. This year, FIP Council adopted the statements that are listed below (together with descriptions of each document). All FIP Statements, Guidelines and Position Papers are available [here](#).

FIP Statement of Policy:

[Counterfeit Medicines](#)

FIP is seriously concerned about the continuing, even increasing, risk to public health represented by counterfeiting of medicines. The massive circulation of poor quality, harmful and counterfeit active ingredients and finished products in international commerce can seriously reduce the quality of patient care. This FIP Statement of Policy on Counterfeit Medicines replaces that adopted in 1999 in Barcelona.

FIP Statement of Policy:

[The Role of the Pharmacist in Promoting a Tobacco Free Future](#)

Pharmacists, in common with all other health professionals, have a responsibility to help people who wish to do so, to give up smoking or other uses of tobacco and to encourage others to do so. To this end, pharmacists fully support the Tobacco-free Initiative of the World Health Organization and its establishment of a comprehensive Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. FIP has created the [Global Network of Pharmacists Against Tobacco](#). This statement gives recommendations to pharmaceutical organisations and individual pharmacists on how to help eliminate tobacco use in the communities they serve.

FIP Statement of Professional Standards:

[The Role of the Pharmacist in Encouraging Adherence to Long Term Treatments](#)

There are many reasons for seeking to improve adherence to long-term therapies for chronic diseases. The benefits include better health outcomes and improved quality of life and improved safety for the patient, as well as cost savings for all stakeholders. Pharmacists and other health professionals providing services involving treatment with medicines, should make every effort to assist patients who wish to do so, to improve adherence.

FIP Statement of POLICY:

Provisioning Ships with Medicines for their Effective Use

Large international shipping vessels carry medications and other medical supplies. Recent research has shown that, although pharmacists who specialise in supplying ships with medicinal and other medical products, encounter a variety of problems, their main concern relating to factors affecting the crew on board, medicines from different countries with different names and regulations and information in different languages. In the statement, FIP recommends several actions to improve the quality of medicines supplied to ships as well as their safe and effective use.